



The Canal Zone Philatelist



Vol. 32, No. 3

Third Quarter, 1996

Whole No. 120

President's Report

Tom Brougham
P.O. Box 443
Berkeley, CA 94701
(510) 843-2459

By the time you receive this issue of *The Canal Zone Philatelist* your copy of the 1996 CZSG Mail Sale should have arrived. This year we had some particular problems putting the sale efforts together. But Richard Bates and Brad Wilde have taken on the largest part of the burden and put together a very fine looking sale catalogue.

This year's sale experiments with dividing the material and describing it in two parts. Richard Bates has taken on the stamps and Brad Wilde the covers and postal stationery. Richard also has the task of recording the bids and closing the sale.

Twenty-five consecutive annual Mail Sales, all put on by volunteers, is certainly a great accomplishment for the CZSG. I am greatly relieved that the chain was not broken this year. I am sure I speak for the membership when I thank both Bates and Wilde for their great efforts.

One of the stalwarts of the CZSG is Secretary John Smith. Virtually everything we do requires an up-to-the-minute membership list. With over eight hundred members, the constant changes of members and addresses, and the need to collect the dues, this job is a very large responsibility. Because of John's excellent work, all our other tasks are made easier and more effective. Thank you, John!

I am pleased to announce that Richard Spielberg has been appointed to serve as Advertising Manager of the CZP, working with Editor David Leeds. Richard is also helping on several articles, the first of which appears this issue. This article "The stamp that never was!" is Richard's first published philatelic item.

I hope that this year's Mail Sale will be as useful and as much fun for you as these sales have always been for me. I greatly enjoy them because each brings me new information and the opportunity to acquire some of the really obscure material. Good hunting!

ABNCo Specimens: Type II, #39 Inverted "CANAL"

by James W. Crumpacker, Gary B. Weiss, David J. Leeds & Irwin Gibbs

One of the problems in analysis of the Type II archival overprints of the Portrait Series could have been noted in our Checklist (CZP 117:37). There you will see the proposed CZSG No. 39.SC, with neither the red F# nor an engraved F# listed. The part sheet had only 97 stamps, missing positions 8, 9, and 10, as well as the entire top selvage. Position 7 has

to the item in his column, "Editor's Choice" on page 3, in the same issue of *Linn's*. Both writers suggest checking through your copies of #39.

Without F#s or dates, identification with respect to the job order number may not be possible except by comparison to the characteristics of the properly identified printer marked sheets. The sheet



Fig. 1. ABNCo CZSG SC 39 CANAL Inverted.



Fig. 2. CZ 39, 7.75mm, Pos. 67, CZSG 39.3a.

CANAL inverted (reading down) in a slightly different font (Fig. 1). This is a previously unknown error.

A brief review of this variety was published in *Linn's Stamp News*, August 19, 1996, page 2 in an article by Fred Baumann from data supplied by Irwin Gibbs. Michael Laurence calls attention

was initially classified as F3634, Sheet B. Upon further analysis (JWC), it was found that while most of the spacings of CANAL / ZONE were 8.5mm, similar to the other F3634 sheet, several positions

(Continued on page 26)

**1996 Mail Sale
Closes October 13, 1996**

Meeting Notice

A CZSG Meeting is scheduled at **SESCAL 96**, Sunday, 2 p.m., October 6, Wyndham Hotel, LAX, Los Angeles, California. Contact: David J. Leeds. All are welcome.

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**The Canal Zone
Philatelist
A.P.S. Affiliate No. 42**

David J. Leeds, Editor
P.O. Box 491472
Los Angeles, CA 90049

The Canal Zone Philatelist (ISSN 0746-004 X) is published quarterly for \$8.00 per year, which includes membership in the Canal Zone Study Group, 1749 W. Sauvignon Dr., Tucson, AZ 85746. Periodical publication postage paid at Tucson, AZ. POSTMASTER: Send address changes and complaints of non-delivery to the Secretary, John C. Smith, 408 Redwood Lane, Schaumburg, IL 60193.

Display advertising accepted from CZSG members only at the following rates per insertion:

One column, two inches	\$10.00
One column, five inches	20.00
Two columns, five inches	35.00

No larger advertisements are accepted. Remittance must accompany copy. Deadline for ads, first day of Mar., June, Sept., Dec. Copy should be sent to the Advertising Manager, Richard Spielberg, 4535 Via Del Buey, Yorba Linda, CA 92686. (714) 693-3349; FAX (818) 915-8279.

Back issues of the journal, handbooks, and other publications can be ordered from Richard F. Murphy, 501 Rosebud Lane, Greer, SC 29650.

Articles and information for publication should be sent to the Editor. Glossy photographs are desirable for figures of stamps or covers; however, enlarged high quality photocopies are sometimes acceptable. Illustrations must show clearly against black backgrounds. If you need help, write, phone or FAX the Editor: (310) 472-0282. The author must advise the Editor if the article has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere.

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Canal Zone Study Group

**CZ at PACIFIC 97
Court of Honor**

The Canal Zone Study Group will have 5 frames in the Pacific Rim Court of Honor at PACIFIC 97, San Francisco, May 29-June 8, 1997. The exhibit will be selected from gems in collections of members of the Canal Zone Study Group. We are hoping to show a blockbuster. If you have an outstanding item that you would like included in the Court of Honor exhibit, please send a xerox of it to the Editor (address on masthead). There will be insurance coverage at the show. Xeroxes only, please.

David J. Leeds

**ABNCo Specimens:
Type II,
#39 Inverted "CANAL"**

(Continued from page 25)

varied from 8.75mm to 7.75mm in a pattern inconsistent with the other sheet.

It is suggested that the printers discovered problems along the top of the sheet and for ease of handling removed the entire top selvage and whatever errors were in positions 8, 9, and 10, missing the not too obvious inverted CANAL. It appears that the setting was cleaned up and subsequently printed and issued. The 7.75mm spacing (position 67 in the archive sheet) is recognized in *Canal Zone Stamps* as a regular issue, CZSG 39.3a. This spacing does not occur on any of the other regular issue printings but is the normal CANAL/ZONE spacing on nearly all positions of Scott 39c, the machine-made booklet panes with imperforate margins.

The error currently exists as the right-hand stamp in a strip of five. The stamp in position 2 was badly damaged and was removed.

The status of the specimen sheet containing this error is controversial. It probably represents a separate printing, the second, of the stamp and on the basis of used examples of a 7.75mm spacing variety, was printed and distributed. However, if the 7.75mm variety comes from another position or printing, this sheet would represent an unissued setting.

From our initial study, and an archival point of view, the sheet should receive a new CZSG No. 39 letter designation. Ultimately we intend to publish an updated CZS Check List. There is substantiation that the setting was actually printed and distributed. The used example shown, Fig. 2, has the 7.75mm spacing unique to this printing. Since both right and lower margins of this copy appear cut, it is probably from handmade booklet pane scrap of Scott #39g, and is consistent with position 67! See CZS, page 265, for the sheet layout.

Additional examination of the used No. 39 with 7.75mm spacing (Fig. 2) was made under 25x magnification. Some of the right side perf tips are concave and a bit ragged but none have fuzzy fibers sticking out as do the perf tips on the top and left sides. This is reasonable evidence of a knife or scissors cut, something which is obvious just looking at the stamp without magnification. The perftips on the bottom of the stamp do not have fuzzy fibers, either; good evidence of the booklet pane scrap idea. With a simple eyeball examination one would not assume a knife/scissors cut. It is entirely possible that while some sheets of this printing went to booklet pane usage, with the resultant scrap shown on positions 34-37 through 64-67 (page 265 of CZS), other sheets were

sent whole to post offices! There could be copies of position 67 of this printing that cannot be positions from scrap cuttings.

The error, CANAL inverted (reading down), has not previously been reported. Was it corrected before production printing? Is there a copy out there, hidden in someone's collection? Better check your Scott #39s for the error and spacing varieties.

Book Review

by David L. Farnsworth

The Aerophilately of the U.S. Army's First Pan American Good Will Flight by Julius Grigore, Jr. (Balboa, Republic of Panama, Julius Grigore, Jr., 1995) 130 + xii pages, 8 1/2" x 11" photocopy bound with 19-hole plastic spiral, almost 100 illustrations and photos, available from A. V. Retty, 425 Harbor Drive - South, Venice, FL 34285, \$20 postpaid to U.S. addresses and \$26 postpaid to non-U.S. addresses.

In the beginning of the introduction the author writes "Some aerophilatelic covers give the illusion that they were routinely serviced and flown. This was my view when I began collecting covers flown by members of the U.S. Army's First Pan American Good Will Flight, between December 21, 1926 and May 2, 1927. Illuminating their many unique aerophilatelic features, from a study of 26 covers, is the purpose of this MONOGRAPH."

The flight of over twenty thousand miles to over twenty countries in the western hemisphere began and ended in the United States. Five Loening amphibian, single-engine planes began the flight with two military personnel in each. Four similar planes were stationed at France Field in the Canal Zone for backup. The wrecks and deaths of crew are discussed. Two of the planes collided in the air and were destroyed.

The author debates at length the philatelic status of souvenir pieces with stamps cancelled in each country and various mail that was carried, perhaps unofficially. The Canal Zone plays a part in this, especially since France Field was used and since Gerald Bliss was philatelically active and Postmaster at Cristobal at the time. However, this book is about the particular flight, not about Canal Zone philately.

If you liked Captain Grigore's monograph about NYRBA (CZP 107:12), you might like this monograph as well. Some of the comments in that review apply equally to this monograph.

Secretary's Report

John C. Smith

408 Redwood Lane

Schaumburg, IL 60192

It is gratifying to see so many Sustaining and Contributing Members helping support CZSG each year. We recognize our Sustaining and Contributing Members in the Secretary's report every third quarter. Your Board of Directors wishes to thank all 65 Sustaining and 169 Contributing Members, as well as our regular members for their continued support.

As of August 10, our total membership stood at 817. Unfortunately, 35 have been dropped from the rolls for non-payment of dues.

This year Bob Karrer was our CZSG representative at the American Philatelic Society STAMPSHOW 96 in Orlando, Florida. He coordinated the CZSG meeting there with Gary Weiss and John Evan. John also volunteered help with the APS Affiliate table. APS is our parent organization. Friends, your efforts are really appreciated!

Our older members may have noticed a decline in membership during the past few years. Our peak membership was 908 in 1990. Since then, 1991 - 886; 1992 - 881; 1993 - 868; 1994 - 886; 1995 - 861; and as of August 8, 1996 - 817. See CZP 99:16 for details of membership totals.

For a good look at Canal Zone stamp collecting interests, rating of CZSG/CZP, as well as average age of our members and more refer to the CZSG survey in CZP 103:9//12, 105:30-31.

One reason for the decline noted above may be due to the lack of publicity given the Canal Zone in the philatelic press. Even if this is true, the great history of the Panama Canal Zone will not be forgotten. Another aspect is the additional philatelic interests of many of our members. Despite the decline in our numbers our hobby is alive and well. Canal Zone stamp and cover realized/ listed prices are holding their own, or rising. Good luck in this year's Mail Sale.

CO1-7,14: O/A, F/A

by Paul F. Ammons

The rather cryptic title refers to the spacings of the Type I Official overprints on air mail stamps, CO1-CO7 and CO14. The varieties are in the horizontal positioning of the two lines of the overprint with respect to each other. Scott mentions these in a footnote following CO7, and they are discussed in *Canal Zone Stamps*. However, they have not previously been illustrated. The variety is O of OFFICIAL over 2nd A of PANAMA, and 1st F of OFFICIAL over 2nd A of PANAMA. The two are most easily recognized in vertically adjacent pairs: O/A position 45; F/A position 50. O/A also occurs on position 17 on different panes. CZSG numbers for the two varieties respectively are CO1-CO7.2b and .2c and CO14.1a and .1b.



CO3: O/A, F/A.

APS Orlando Meeting

Eighteen members and visitors attended the CZSG gathering at the APS STAMPSHOW in Orlando, Florida, August 25, 1996. Bob Karrer reported a lively meeting with discussion of censors and perfin by Paul Ammons, and a variety of CZ subjects by other attendees on their own special interests. The publications schedule was reviewed. Larry Weinstock mentioned a find of air flight covers turned over to Ailan Harris. Two of our members present won Gold awards: Gary Weiss (Ryukyu Provisionals) also the Reserve Grand, and Bob Karrer (Civil War Charleston).

Interesting purchases were the "show and tell". These regional gatherings are an important activity of CZSG. Thanks to Bob Karrer and John Evan for putting this one together.

James B. Helme, M.D.

1924-1996

by Federico Brid

Dr. James B. Helme, "Jim", the dean of Panama philately, died of a massive heart attack at the University Hospital in Philadelphia on June 7. He was 72.

Born in Port Chester, New York, Jim graduated from Princeton University in 1947, and obtained his MD degree from the University of Washington in 1952. He did his residency in pediatrics at the Vanderbilt University Hospital and practiced medicine in Nashville, Tennessee until his retirement in 1982. He is survived by his son, Franklin, three daughters, Martha, Susie, and Cary, and seven grandchildren.

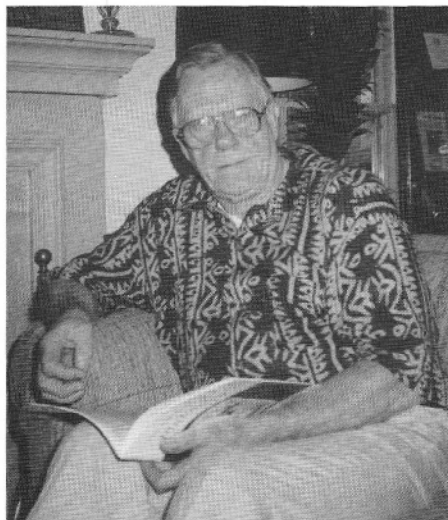
As he wrote me many years ago, Jim began collecting stamps in his pre-teen years. On a trip through the Panama Canal his ship stopped at Cristobal on the Atlantic side. While touring Colon he asked his father to take him to the post office to buy stamps. This purchase introduced Jim to the stamps of Panama and from that point on it became a life-long passion to obtain, study, research, write, and exhibit the stamps of Panama and the Canal Zone.

I first met Jim Helme at AMERIPEX in Chicago in 1986. His award winning gold medal collection of the first Panama map issue was on display. Jim took me to his exhibit, and with a lot of patience and understanding started showing me frame after frame of items I had never seen before. I still remember his enthusiasm when we came to a Honduras mixed franking cover. The master was at work, and the student was eager to learn. Back home, I wrote him a letter which was the beginning of a long correspondence stream that continued until a few days before his death when he went to New Jersey to visit his daughter Cary and attend a class reunion at Princeton. With him was a draft of an article on the Panama Hamilton proofs I had sent him a few days earlier. The draft has become final and is the key article in the current issue of *COPACARTA*.

With the publication of the Hamilton proof article, Jim's death brings to a close a long series of works that appeared in the most prestigious philatelic journals in the country. *The Collectors Club Philatelist* not only published some of his most important articles as the definitive series on the "Panama 1886-87 1st Map Issue" but twice granted him its "Best Article of the Year" award. I was fortunate to share with him one of these awards with the "Panama 1885 Stampless Period" series.

Jim's need to exhaust the topic before the work was ready for publication produced definitive studies. At the same time, this drive for completeness left a series of topics unfinished, like the history of the Panama state postal system

up to 1886, the Panama 4th provisional issue, the Panama Arms issue, the early Panama registration covers, and others. Having his notes and research materials available, we hope to bring to press some of these unfinished products. Jim's death is a great loss to the students of Panama and Canal Zone stamps. To postal historians, his collections, exhibits, APS expertising opinions, notes, and writings remain a testimony to a great passion for all that encompasses the philately of the Isthmus of Panama. Even though I have lost a co-researcher, a teacher, a guide and most important of all, a friend, I am grateful for the wisdom I acquired during these ten years of intensive collaboration.



[Editor's Note]: The above memorial to Jim, written by his co-author and friend, Federico Brid, appears simultaneously in *COPACARTA*, Journal of the Colombia/Panama Philatelic Study Group. Following are the Editor's recollections of Jim.

My own association with Jim indicated his equal interest in Canal Zone. As I recall, my first contact was after viewing his Panama Air Post exhibit at WESTPEX about 20 years ago. The exciting item there was proofs of the Panama Lindbergh stamps (see CZP 107-108). (This exhibit, after a trip to Switzerland, became the Christine Shaw Panama Air Post Collection.) Contact with Jim led to an exhaustive correspondence, Jim's letters on occasion stretching to 20 pages. His study of the 1903-04 Panama overprints provided the basis for his understanding of the CZ on Panama overprints. His collections of Canal Zone were in the process of disposal at the time of his death. The first two groups, displayed in various shows over the past 20 years earned 9 US Golds, 3 International Golds, and one International Large Gold. The first two sales were of the CZ first issue, and later CZ 9-20. Full sheets of most of No's. 9-20 were in the collection, with minute descriptions of all the varieties. His classification extended Hayden, Schay,

and CZSG listings. There was even a half sheet of 14b, CZ inverted. The strength is shown by No. 15: four blocks of 4 plus 14 singles! He concluded that there were only four sheets issued for a total of 400 stamps, unless there is a hitherto unreported full sheet. The other numbers were also well represented. Later issues were in the process of preparation for sale. He did not dispose of anything until it was well documented both on the album page and in his notes.

Jim's generosity is shown by his wishes for the care of his notebooks. After an appropriate period they will revert to the public domain and be available to serious students of both Canal Zone and Panama.

Another of Jim's hobbies was the practice of the culinary arts. I noticed stacks of new cookbooks around, always in pairs. His answer to my question of why two each: "that way when you clip and paste them on large file cards you do not lose the recipe on the reverse." His neat file drawers of recipes were as extensive as his CZ and Panama philatelic notebooks. And, as he demonstrated, his skill at the stove equalled his philatelic knowledge. CZSG #202, he had been a member for over 40 years.

We have lost a friend who just happened to be one of the great students of Canal Zone and Panama philately.

David J. Leeds

Lock Boxes

The article on Bliss Postage Due Provisional stamps by Paul Kravitz (CZP 116:21) posed a question as to when lock or combination post office boxes became available in the Canal Zone. The CZ Postal Regulations of July 1, 1915 state a charge of 50 cents per quarter for ordinary call boxes and \$1 per quarter for key and combination lock boxes, was payable in advance. Also, it noted that this statement was made in Circular 266, November 21, 1914. It seems, therefore, that very late in 1914 the first PO boxes were rented, perhaps by December 1, or maybe a week or so earlier.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1915, the amount of rent collected was \$2,974.65 (Annual Report), but this amount was from January 1, 1915 to June 30, 1915. This suggests that no box rent was collected for December. Note also that box rent is listed by post office for a few years only.

There is no description of the difference between "ordinary call boxes" and "lock boxes". Can a reader explain?

Lawson Entwistle

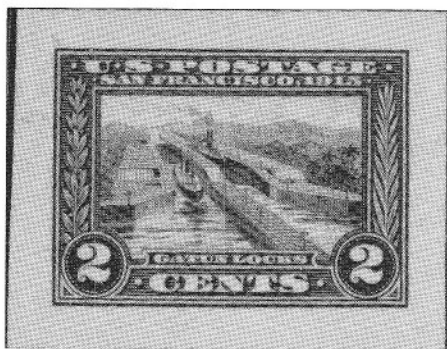
US Panama-Pacific Issue 2¢ carmine, Gatun Locks

The stamp that never was!

by Richard Spielberg

The United States Post Office issued four designs commemorating the Panama-Pacific Exposition held in San Francisco, California, February 20 to December 4, 1915. The Exposition marked the 1914 opening of the Panama Canal. It was intended that the set of 4 be issued January 1, 1913 to stimulate interest in advance of the Exposition. The 1¢ with a portrait of Balboa (discoverer of the Pacific) surrounded by palm trees, the 5¢ of Golden Gate (without the bridge), and the 10¢ showing Drake's discovery of San Francisco Bay were issued on time. The first printings in 1913 were perf 12. Reissues in 1914 and 1915 were perf 10. A total of 503,713,086 copies of the corrected 2¢ stamp were issued. The story of the delay of the 2¢ follows.

On August 12, 1912, the die proof for the 2¢ stamp was approved and shortly thereafter the plates went to press. The official description of this stamp stated: "The two cent stamp represents the Gatun Locks of the Panama Canal, with a merchant steamer emerging from one lock and a warship in the other. The mountains of the Isthmus appear in the distance and palm trees are on the right-hand side of the locks. Beneath the picture are the words *Gatun Locks*". However, when the stamps appeared at the Post Office the title below the vignette had been changed to *Panama Canal*! The story behind the vanishing stamp makes a fascinating tale.



2¢ Panama-Pacific
Gatun Locks Error.

The 2¢ Panama-Pacific design was based on a stamp model chosen by the Director of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to be an aerial view of the Gatun Locks of the Panama Canal. The design was to have been rendered from photographs, but when they arrived from the Canal they were deemed not artistically satisfactory. Instead, Director Ralph of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing visited a model of the Canal prepared by the Bureau of Insular Affairs, then on exhibition at the War Department, in hope of getting a picture of it that could

be used. Miniature ships were placed in the model locks, which were filled with water, and photographs showing the views wanted were taken. A sketch was made by C. A. Huston from one of these photos, who added the palm trees and distant mountains. The vignette was engraved by M. W. Baldwin using the frame design from the 1¢ value of the set, and titled *Gatun Locks*.

Sixteen plates, each able to print 280 stamps, were prepared and more than twenty million copies were printed before some unknown hero remembered that the *Gatun Locks* were a three step series of locks unlike the one step locks illustrated. The photographer had shot the Pedro Miguel locks toward the opposite end of the canal!

The Bureau immediately decided that it could not issue a stamp bearing a wrong description (how things have changed in the last 80 years) and the entire printing was destroyed. The die was *re-engraved* so the label said vaguely, Panama Canal; new plates were made and new stamps printed, delaying the issuance of this value to January 18, 1913, less than a month after the other denominations were issued. It is truly amazing and a great credit to both the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and the Post Office Department that of the large quantity of stamps printed not a single copy of the *Gatun error* has ever reached the public! The only tangible evidence of the Bureau's error remains an essay and die proofs. Three large die proofs were at the Bureau and a small die proof (Scott's 398-E3) is in the possession of a philatelist who paid \$4750 at an October 1992 Siegel Auction. The essay and die proofs illustrating the rare and fascinating *Gatun error* are among the most interesting U.S. postal varieties.

References:

- C. Brazer, (1941), *Essays for U.S. Adhesive Postage Stamps*, p.189.
- M. Juhl, (1937), *U.S. Postage Stamps of the 20th Century*, Vol. 1 (revised), pp. 333-335
- C. Hahn, (July 6, 1946) "The Stamp Which Isn't", *The Saturday Evening Post*.
- Siegel Auction Galleries, October 3, 1992 Sale, Lot #752.
- Scott, *Specialized Catalog of United States Stamps*, "Essay Section".

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&
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Book Review

A Price Guide to U.S. A.P.O. Cancells of the Second World War by Jim Forte & Richard W. Helbock. La Posta Publications, PO Box 135, Lake Oswego, OR 97034, 1996. 136 pages. \$16.95 ppd.

The major work on WWII APO numbers was reviewed here several issues back (CZP 116:20). The present *Price Guide to U.S. A.P.O. Cancells of the Second World War* puts prices on these covers. "Sticker Shock" is the first gasp of the usual collector seeking out the individual APO numbers, but on further study the rationality of the Price Guide emerges. We are used to seeing most of these covers in the dollar box. In bulk that is still fair. But, the *Price Guide* does a bit better than that.

Consider the military organization and its APO that spent 6 months in the staging area of England, Hawaii, or wherever, then blitzed past one country after another, or one damned island after another spending a few weeks in each, rather than months. They may have carried the same APO number but the quantity of mail serviced at each location, at their known dates varies. This rarity factor is one of the two inputs to PRICE. The second input is demand, which is an estimate of the level of interest. The product of Rarity times Demand is Price. It is not quite that simple. Prices are for a free franked, or 6¢ air, on a standard, clean #6 cover with a legible postmark. The minimum value is less than \$5.

The authors have difficulty evaluating German APOs because of current interest in the area. However the Canal Zone area appears fairly priced. There is no question that these prices will work initially as in the old Scott, with discounts that may approach 50%. But, consider the mindlessly priced covers of many dealers who substitute a uniform \$7.50 or even \$15 for common and plentiful though unidentified origins. Panama Canal origins actually run from \$5 through \$30. Since these were static bases there was no location movement factor to consider. Some of the variations of sub-offices should be much more.

One of our dealer reviewers takes issue with the low demand classification for Canal Zone APOs. His experience is that there is greater demand for Canal Zone than for many of the other higher rated locations. This would lower any tendency to discount Canal Zone APOs. He also warns that while most pricing is realistic some is seriously wrong. This also disturbs a broadly based serious collector, with long experience in military postal history. He believes that the few overpriced items will bias pricing the entire group upward, discouraging collectors from collecting even the easy APOs.

We know that for our area of interest the authors had the inventories of several

(Continued on page 31)

Auctions

by Jim Crumpacker

This report covers auctions which took place in the second quarter, April 1 through June 30, 1996. No single auction house had a truly comprehensive offering but, while not nearly as active as the first quarter, numerous sales of moderate breadth characterized the period.

The selling price is shown first followed by the catalogue value in parenthesis from the 1996 Scott's Specialized; the appropriate commission is included.

- 1, dull OG, H, F \$219 (\$550) Harmer
- 2, TG, H, F-VF \$196 (\$240) Philstamps
- 2, F on F cover, Cristobal 7/13/04 to NY \$109 (\$240) Harmer
- 3a, CANAL ZONE inverted, dull OG, H, VG-F, \$358 (\$625) Shreve
- 6, pl. bl. of 6 with imprint, #1888-L, OG, HR as reinf., F \$1035 (\$1500) Christie's
- 8, OG, H, VF \$98 (\$160) Superior
- 10a, inverted overprint, OG, NH, F+ \$132 (\$250) Shreve
- 12a, b, CANAL and ZONE antique in bl. of 9 with 7 normals, OG, H, VG-VF \$127 (\$206) Harmer
- 13b, ZONE antique, OG, H, VF \$154 (\$175) Shreve
- 14b, 14 var., CANAL ZONE inverted, stamp also has right PANAMA 5 mm below bar (only 4 of combo can exist), OG, H, F \$719 (\$600) Harmer
- 24c, double overprint, 6.75mm spacing, TG, H, F-VF \$219 (\$500) Christie's
- 36a, inverted surcharge, OG, H, XF \$176 (\$300) Shreve
- 39e, inverted center with overprint reading down, TG, H, barely F margin copy from booklet pane \$242 (\$700) Christie's
- 39e, inverted center with overprint reading down, dist. OG, H, VF \$242 (\$700) Shreve
- 54, OG, NH, F-VF \$154 (\$200) Weiss
- 56a, double overprint, OG, H, F \$286 (\$575) Kelleher
- 56a, double overprint, OG, H, F-VF \$334 (\$575) Christie's
- 60b, booklet pane of 6, dist. OG, H, VG-F \$605 (\$1000) Kelleher
- 71d, ZONE CANAL, OG, NH, F \$334 (\$450) Ivy & Mader
- 71e, complete booklet of 4 panes, OG, NH, F-VF \$546 (\$500) Ivy & Mader
- 84, pl. bl. of 6 # 17982-UR with 5-point star, OG (a gum wrinkle), H, VF \$978 (\$1600) Harmer
- 85a, ZONE ZONE, OG, error NH, F in bl. of 9 with 8 normals \$776 (\$532) Regency
- 91b, CANAL only, OG, H, VG-F with natural SE, \$633 (\$1700) Christie's

93, pl. bl. of 6 # 17449-L, OG, NH, F-VF \$132 (\$250) Weiss

95, OG, H, XF \$86 (\$125) Philstamps
C2, OG, NH, VF+ \$83 (\$100) Shreve
J17, OG, NH, F-VF \$41 (\$50) Regency
J17b, E of POSTAGE omitted, OG, H, F+ \$460 (\$400) Superior

08, CTO, OG, H, F \$368 (\$675) Christie's
UF1 (UPSS R1), mint, couple wrinkles on rev., o/w VF \$2070 (\$1500) Ivy & Mader
95, C4, C5 (two) and US \$1.30 Zepp. on F-VF cover 5/22/30 Cristobal/NY/Lakehurst/Friedrichshafen via Zeppelin, Si. 64, \$2200 (\$n/a) Paradise Valley

Plate proof for 01, 02, 04-07, 09 in a bl. of 4, imperforate on thin paper, ungummed, \$150 (\$n/a) Philstamps

20E, essay on Panama #18, dull OG, H, VF \$155 (\$n/a) Harmer

The addresses of the auction firms mentioned in this report are shown below. Please reference CZP should you choose to request their catalogues.

Christie's
502 Park Ave.
New York, NY 10022

H.R. Harmer, Inc.
3 East 28th St., 7th floor
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APO Price Guide

(Continued from page 30)

substantial APO collections, plus their own stocks and experience — several thousand covers. The count was broken down even into machine and handstamped. The results meet our own experience in "Rarity" and is based on a scale of from 1 to 10 with the larger number indicating the higher degree of rarity. There is at least one "10", and several not seen often enough to be rated. Fort Clayton is the lowest ranking in rarity. They all hit barely above the middle in interest or "demand" with a 3 out of a possible 5 points. Actual prices are again refined considering address, other markings, and many factors to add a premium.

So, all in all, we have a rational target price that balances the rarity or availability of CZ APOs against the general interest of other APO collectors.

The book is 5.5" by 8.4" softbound. The authors have done an excellent job for which they will receive the moans and groans and abuse of us collectors for highlighting the value of our collections of this most interesting phase of philately.

Comment from our readers is solicited.
David J. Leeds

The First Envelopes — U1 and U2

by Irwin J. Gibbs, Chair, Postal Stationery Committee

Stamped envelopes were not requested by the Canal Zone government until 11 years after postage stamps and almost 9 years after postal cards were first sold. The introduction of stamped envelopes was first mentioned in a letter on December 28, 1915 from Executive Secretary C.A. McIlvaine to the foreign Minister of Panama, Ernesto T. Lefevre. The letter reads:

"The cost of surcharging these envelopes (Canal Zone) has been estimated at from 37 cents to 40 cents a thousand. If your Government is willing to pay the cost of this surcharging... the Canal Zone will make requisition for 10,000 each of the two denominations above mentioned."

Mr. Lefevre answered:

"...in reply, I take pleasure in advising you that the Honorable Secretary of Justice, to whom your said letter was quoted, advises me that he accepts the proposal made to him by the Administration of Posts of The Panama Canal to purchase 10,000 of the envelopes of each

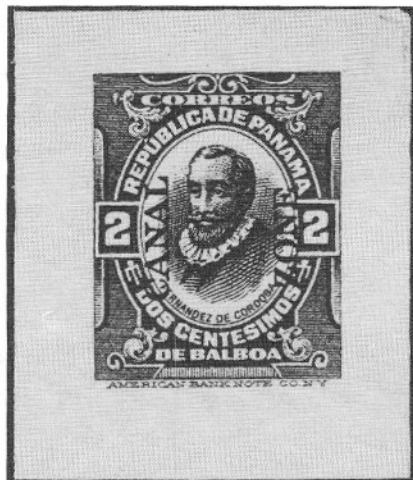


Fig. 2. Scott No. U2, UPSS 2.

surcharging the envelopes with the words 'Canal Zone'..."

On January 11, 1916, a requisition was made, not for 10,000 but 50,000 of each of the 1¢ and 2¢ envelopes. These envelopes were never prepared.

On January 21, 1916, Mr. McIlvaine again wrote to Minister Lefevre explaining that he could not use the higher denomination envelopes of Panama since the Panama envelope indicated a denomination of 2 1/2¢ instead of 2 cents. Then Panama advised that they could not spare any of the 1¢ envelopes as there was a shortage of these in Panama. As a result, Mr. McIlvaine wrote:

"...it is requested that there be ordered from the American Bank Note Company 50,000 envelopes bearing 2-cent stamps each surcharged 'Canal Zone' and 50,000 envelopes bearing 1-cent stamps each surcharged 'Canal Zone'. It is requested that these envelopes be of white paper of good quality, standard letter size (approximately 3-5/8 inches by 6 1/2 inches), and that the seal flaps be not gummed."

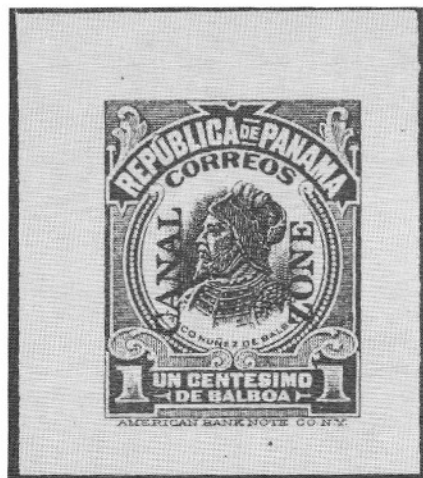


Fig. 1. Scott No. U1, UPSS 1.

of the denominations of 1 and 2 cents, and that it also accepts to pay the cost of

The earliest date of use of Scott No. U1 (UPSS 1) reported to date is May 18, 1916.

The earliest date of use for Scott No. U2 (UPSS 2) was last reported as April 17, 1916 in CZP 91:12. The Bliss return address and the existence of several similar covers raises the tiny question as to whether these might all be first day covers. The answer is definitely no; the new earliest use cover has other information to suggest that it is a first day.

The new discovery is canceled April 26, 1916 from Balboa Heights and has the rubber stamped return address of Frank E. Greene. The envelope is addressed to L.S. Greene in Detroit. Inside is a short note dated April 26, 1916, reading "These envelopes just issued today want you to have one of each with date of issue" and signed Frank. The *UPSS Catalog* lists April 24, 1916 as the first day. The letter suggests differently.

The envelopes bear similar reproductions of the 1¢ and 2¢ stamps of 1909 (Figs. 1 and 2). The words CANAL ZONE are in the same type as the Type II overprints on the postage stamps, with 9.4mm spacing between CANAL and ZONE. The words CANAL and ZONE were made an integral part of the die with the head of Balboa and Cordoba. As a result, only two runs through the press were required: the first was for the colored frame and the second for the head and words, CANAL ZONE, in black.

The overprint measurements for all the printings vary only slightly. CANAL measures 10.9-11.0mm, ZONE 8.6-8.7mm, and the spacing between CANAL and ZONE is 9.3-9.4mm.

The 1990 Christie's sale and distribution of the American Bank Note Company (ABNCo) archival specimens has uncovered much new information on the early issues of Canal Zone postal stationery. In addition, the unpublished manuscript *The Story of Canal Zone Stamps* by Philip L. Dade and Gustavo Schay (the basis for CZSG's *Canal Zone Stamps*) contained a section on postal stationery.

According to the ABNCo archives, the first print order was F 4867 (Fig. 3), and the order was printed on February 23,

(Continued on page 34)

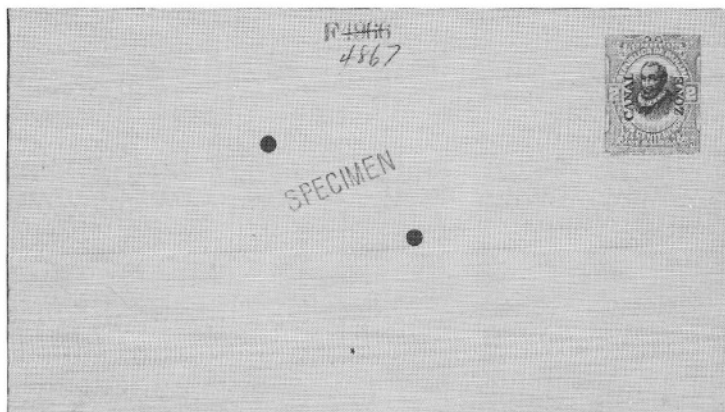


Fig. 3. ABNCo Specimen of U2, F 4867.

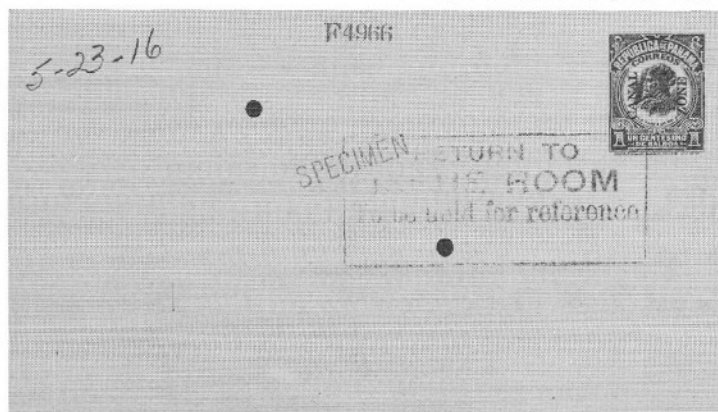


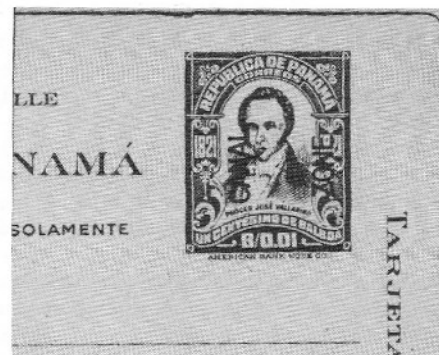
Fig. 4. ABNCo Specimen of U1, F 4966, "Issue Room" Marking.

U9 UPSS10 Paper Flaw

An interesting example of a paper flaw on Canal Zone postal stationery has been submitted by Art Thomas of the United Postal Stationery Society (UPSS). The item is on the 1924 2¢ typeset envelope, UPSS10 with the Balboa Heights corner card. The defect is a 40mm wide stain that crosses the face of the envelope from lower left to upper right, but misses the impression of the stamp. The stain dies out on the opened flap. It extends onto the back and is cut off at the knife edge, under the pasteup. The stain was on the paper before it was cut and folded. While it appears as grease stain, solvent did not remove it. It did not reproduce well so is not illustrated. The envelope will be offered by UPSS.

UX5 Essay/Fake?

An unreported type font of the 1921 postal card UX5, is shown. The card was offered in an ELA Auction in September 1995. The actual cards were produced by the American Bank Note Company, without overprint for Panama, and with the ABNCo overprint for the Canal Zone. They were both delivered at the same time and are believed to have had simultaneous first days. They were not available before the date of issue to produce essays, models, or samples. Blank, unoverprinted cards were available for any "hankypanky" after the regular cards were issued. No similar type style has appeared in ABNCo material, so it is most probable that the item is an interesting but bogus fantasy. Thanks to Mark Nesser for the copy.



UX5 Essay/Fake?

U1 — U2

(Continued from page 32)

1916 and available on April 24, 1916. Although, the 1¢ envelope was prepared with the CANAL ZONE overprint, the 1¢ envelope was not issued by Panama. The 2¢ was issued in Panama in 1909.

A circular issued by Crede H. Calhoun, Acting Director of Posts, on April 24, 1916, gave the prices at which these envelopes were sold at the post offices. A single 1¢ envelope sold for 2¢ and a 2¢ envelope sold for 3¢. In quantities of 50 or more, the envelopes were sold for face value plus one-tenth cent surcharge per envelope.

These envelopes became very popular and were in continuous use from 1916 through 1924. Records and specimens from the ABNCo archives indicate that four printings of the 1¢ envelope totaling 350,000 were printed, and specimens for each of the printings were part of the archives sold by Christie's in 1990. Of total of 1,512,000 of the 2¢ envelope, only specimens from four of the printings were in the archives. In 1937 an estimated 150,000 of the 1¢ envelopes were destroyed.

On several of the specimens there is a purple box 70.0 x 29.5mm with the inscription "Return to Issue Room to be held for reference." (See Fig. 4).

A detailed tabulation of specimens from the archives of the ABNCo including order dates, release dates, and quantities follows.

References:

- The Postal Stationery of the Canal Zone*, John J. Blessington, Editor, The United Postal Stationery Society, Redlands, CA (1985).
- The Canal Zone Philatelist*, various issues (1968-1995).
- The Story of Canal Zone Stamps*, Philip L. Dade & Gustavo Schay, manuscript (1950).

U1 and U2 Specimens and Quantities

U1-UPSS 1 - CZSG U1.S 1c Balboa

CZSG Number	Red F#	Print Date	Specimen Description	Number of Specimens	Quantity Printed	Release Date
U1.SA	F 4867	02/23/16	2 Punched Holes - Red Specimen (26.0mm x 5.2mm)	3	50,000	04/24/16
U1.SB	F 4966	05/23/16	2 Punched Holes - Red Specimen (26.0mm x 5.2mm)	3	150,000	12,500:09/13/16 137,500:10/02/16
U1.SC	F 6236	01/08/20	Not Printed or Punched, F 6236 only	2	50,000	04/09/20
U1.SD	F 6568	10/22/20	Punched SPECIMEN A.B.N. Co. (53.0mm x 20.0mm)	6	100,000	03/18/21
Total:				14	350,000	

U2-UPSS 2 - CZSG U2.S 2c Cordoba

U2.SA	F 4867	02/23/16	2 Punched Holes - Red Specimen (26.0mm x 5.2mm)	2	50,000	04/24/16
	F 4966 *	05/23/16	2 Punched Holes - Red Specimen (26.0mm x 5.2mm)	0	150,000	25,000:09/07/16 62,000:09/13/16 62,500:10/02/16
	—	—	—	0	150,000	08/08/17
	—	—	—	0	112,500	03/08/18
	—	—	—	0	100,000	11/17/18
	—	—	—	0	200,000	37,500:04/04/19 162,500:04/11/19
U2.SB	F 6236	01/08/20	Not Printed or Punched, F 6236 only.	0	100,000	08/12/19
U2.SC	F 6568	10/22/20	Punched SPECIMEN A.B.N. Co. (53.0mm x 20.0mm)	2	200,000	04/09/20
				2	250,000	125,000:03/03/21 125,000:03/18/21
U2.SD	F 7290	03/05/23	Punched SPECIMEN A.B.N. Co. (53.0mm x 20.0mm)	3	200,000	04/—/23
Total:				9	1,512,000	

* Although no 2c F 4966 specimens were located in the archives, it is assumed that the specimen overprint was the same as the 1c.

Air Mail Perf "P"

by Paul F. Ammons

The results of the re-survey of air mail stamps perforated "P" for official use are summarized in the tables. The first survey was reported in *CZP* 19:18-19. This survey was announced in *CZP* 109:31 and is an outgrowth of research needed to document the author's exhibit of Scott C6-C14. The regular stamps perforated "P" for official use were not surveyed due to the author's unfamiliarity with the basic stamps. Interim survey results were published in sister publications, *Isthmian Collectors Club Journal* and *Jack Knight Air Log*, Oct.-Dec., 1995, pp. 34-35.

Quantities. Thirty-seven collectors participated in the survey. However, the almost 300% increase in reported air mail stamps perforated "P" summarized in Table 1 cannot be attributed solely to

their stamps, did not know about the survey, or chose not to participate.

Unreported Examples. The most recent survey failed to reveal several examples included in the previous survey. These are identified in the notes to Table 1.

Orientation: The key difference between the 1971 and 1995 surveys was the inclusion of "P" orientation. The order of the eight possible orientations shown in Fig. 1 is totally arbitrary. Quantities reported by orientation are summarized in Table 2. Typical examples are shown in Figs. 2-5. Only four stamps (C7, C10, C11 and C14) are reported to exist with all eight orientations of the "P." Seven

of the eight possible orientations are reported for C13 and C20. For the 1st (Provisional) air mail series of overprinted, surcharged regulars, C1-C5, horizontal orientations 5 through 8 may be extremely scarce. Only one example was reported with a horizontal orientation. For the 2nd (1st Definitive) air mail series depicting Gaillard Cut, C6-C14, vertical orientations 1 through 4 may be difficult to find. Only 24% of the examples reported have vertical orientations. For the 1939 commemorative air mail series, C15-C20, vertical orientations 1 through

(Continued on page 35)

Table 1.

Total Quantities Reported

Scott No.	Face Value	Number Reported		Δ
		1971	1995	
1st (Provisional) Air Mail Series				
Overprinted & Surcharged Regular Definitives				
C1	15¢	1	0	-1
C2	15¢	1	3	2
C3	25¢	1	20	19
C4	10¢	1	9	8
C5	20¢	5	40	35
Series Subtotal		9	72	63

2nd (1st Definitive) Air Mail Series Gaillard Cut

C7	5¢	9	28	19
C8	6¢	0	3	3
C9	10¢	10	19	9
C10	15¢	19	84	65
C11	20¢	25	96	71
C12	30¢	0	1	1
C13	40¢	17	65	48
C14	\$1	32	113	81
Series Subtotal		112	409	297

1939 Commemorative Air Mail Series 25th Anniversary of Panama Canal Opening

C15	5¢	11	18	7
C16	10¢	5	7	2
C17	15¢	13	58	45
C18	25¢	0	0	0
C19	30¢	11	42	31
C20	\$1	22	106	84
Series Subtotal		62	231	169

Grand Total 183 712 529

greater collector participation. Discovery of many accumulations since 1971, articles on perforated initial stamps in several stamp journals, Gary Weiss' exhibit, the announcements about this survey, and the author's exhibit, have led to recognition of these stamps by more collectors. The number of air mail stamps perforated "P" still in existence continues to be understated. There are probably many collectors with one or more air mail stamps perforated "P" in their collection who have not recognized the significance of the holes punched in one or more of

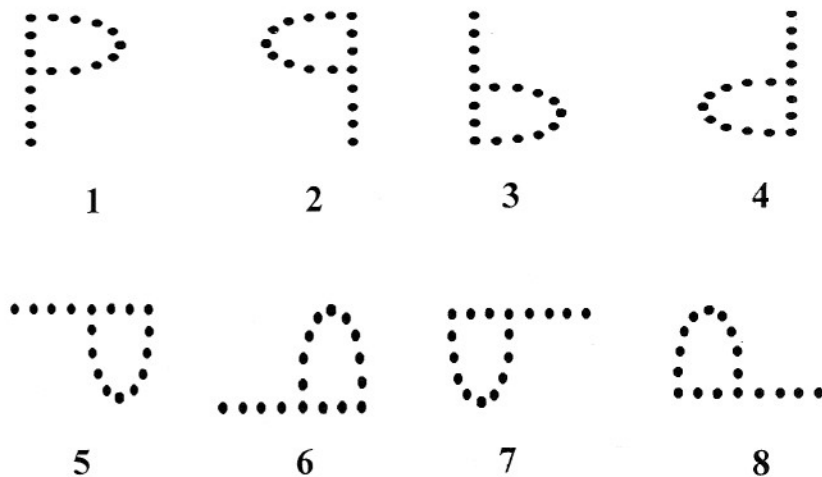


Fig. 1. "P" Orientation.

Table 2.

Total Quantities Reported by Orientation

Scott #	Face Value	Orientation of "P" as viewed on stamp face								Total
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1st (Provisional) Air Mail Series										
C2	15¢	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
C3	25¢	13	0	1	6	0	0	0	0	20
C4	10¢	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
C5	20¢	35	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	40
C5a	20¢	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	incl above
Series Total		58	3	2	7	1	0	0	0	72
2nd (1st Definitive) Air Mail Series										
C7	5¢	7	2	4	1	2	3	6	3	28
C8	6¢	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
C9	10¢	0	0	0	0	6	8	0	5	19
C10	15¢	7	5	7	3	36	5	19	2	84
C11	20¢	11	3	12	10	12	10	14	24	96
C12	30¢	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
C13	40¢	0	1	1	3	14	11	12	23	65
C14	\$1	1	2	1	16	4	31	2	56	113
Series Total		26	14	25	33	74	68	53	116	409
1939 Commemorative Air Mail Series										
C15	5¢	0	0	0	0	4	3	7	4	18
C16	10¢	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	7
C17	15¢	0	1	0	0	5	26	6	20	58
C19	30¢	2	0	0	0	7	21	1	11	42
C20	\$1	9	6	0	5	8	18	26	34	106
Series Total		12	7	0	5	24	70	41	72	231



Fig. 2. CZSG, C10.PP Orientation 5.

Air Mail Perf "P"

(Continued from page 34)

4 may be scarce. Only 10% of the examples reported have vertical orientations.

Unused. Unused official perforated initial "P" air mail stamps were to have been returned to the accountable mail clerk when overprinted official air mail stamps were issued. Although unused copies of C1-C5, C7, C9-C10, C11, C13-C20 should not exist, several copies have been reported. How they were originally acquired is controversial.

Existence of C8 and C12 with perforated "P". Both C8 and C12 were issued after air mail stamps overprinted for official use, CO1-CO14, were issued. Therefore, the genuineness of C8 and C12 with perforated "P" is questionable. Their existence was noted but not included in the table accompanying the article on the first survey. They may have been prepared for emergency use or as favors. Neither the destruction nor the current location of the Cummins hand perforator used to perforate the early official stamps has been reported. One copy each of C8 and C12 were included in the auction of the Gilbert Plass collection by Ivy, Shreve & Mader.

Table 3.

Multiples and Covers Reported

Scott No.	Face Value	Multiples Reported Off Cover						Cvrs. Rptd.
		Pairs		Strips		Blocks		
		Vert.	Horz.	Vert.	Horz.	4	6+	
1st (Provisional) Air Mail Series								
C3	25¢				2	2		
C4	10¢		1					
C5	20¢		4			1	1	
Series Subtotal		0	5	0	2	3	1	0
2nd (1st Definitive) Air Mail Series								
C7	5¢							3
C9	10¢					2		
C10	15¢			4		3		5
C11	20¢	3			1	2		7
C13	40¢	5				4		
C14	\$1	5	2	3		6	1	
Series Subtotal		13	2	7	1	17	1	15
1939 Commemorative Air Mail Series								
C17	15¢							17
C19	30¢	5		2				2
C20	\$1	10	1	3		6	1	
Series Subtotal		15	1	5	0	6	1	19
Grand Total								
		28	8	12	3	26	3	34

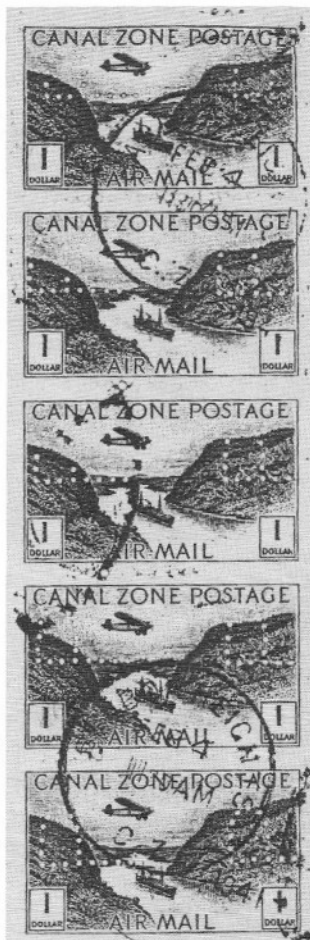


Fig. 3. CZSG C14.PP. Only reported \$1 vert. strip of 5, and largest strip reported of series. Orientation 8.

Multiples Off Cover or on Piece.

Pairs and strips of three or more were not separately reported in the previous survey. Data was collected by orientation and other distinguishable features (normal straightedge and cancellation data). This allowed the identification of "unique" multiples. Multiples were not reported for C1, C2, C15 or C16. The findings are summarized in Table 3. More detailed information on these multiples can be provided by writing the author.

Tête-Bêche. The C20 horizontal pair, the C11 horizontal strip of three, two of the C14 blocks of four, and the C14 block of six contain tête-bêche pairs, horizontally adjacent stamps having different orientations of the "P". Additionally, one C10 cover and one C17 cover were reported franked with tête-bêche pairs. Another cover was noted with a horizontal strip of three C11 which included a tête-bêche pair.

Vertical Strips. Only three vertical strips were reported to contain more than three stamps. The largest reported vertical strip is a single strip of five C14 (Fig. 3). There were two reported vertical

strips of four, both C10, each with a different orientation.

Covers. Covers were also not separately reported in the previous survey. An attempt was made to collect complete data on all covers. A recently discovered "hoard" of C17 and C19 covers led to the increase in reported covers. Six of the 34 reported covers are franked by more than one air mail stamp. Three of the covers franked with a single C7 perforated "P" are additionally franked with a single 117 perforated "P".

Continuing Efforts. This survey can become a continuing effort. Anyone having stamps, multiples or covers not included in Tables 2 or 3 or desiring to provide more detailed information about previously reported multiples or covers is encouraged to correspond with the author. It would be nice to track down the unreported examples from the previous survey. If information in auction catalogs or private treaty sales includes orientation and other distinguishing features, they could also be a source for additions to the survey. Anonymity of owner/reporter will continue to be maintained.



Fig. 4. CZSG C11.PP Orientation 7.



Fig. 5. CZSG C13.PP Orientation 8.

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